

A YOUNG man in a train was making fun of a lady's hat to an elderly gentleman in the seat with him. "Yes," said his seat-mate, "that's my wife, and I told her if she wore that bonnet that some fool would make fun of it." The young man said out. At the next station the old man poured out his hot coffee into the saucer to cool. "Look, ma," said a snickering girl, "at that old-fashioned way of drinking." "Yes," said the elderly gentleman, "and it was old-fashioned manners not to notice it." The elderly gentleman finished his journey in peace.

ALTHOUGH, says a contemporary, there may be no right or reason for objecting to King Johannes of Abyssinia possessing "an outlet to the sea," it is well that it should be clearly known what manner of man this Abyssinian monarch is before people have the opportunity of becoming the mouth of him in the same way as some of us have about Arabi Pasha and King Cetewayo. "Chinese Gordon" is always quoted as the great authority on the subject of the wrongs of King Johannes, but it is strange at the least that those who make this appeal to his authority should omit all reference to the very disparaging opinion he formed of King Johannes—who after all is only an usurper, if for the time successful. As "justice to Abyssinia" may very possibly be the next cry of the policy of sentiment, General Gordon's opinion in 1879 of this ruler's character should be remembered. "The King is rapidly growing mad," he cuts off the noses of those who take snuff, and the lips of those who smoke. The King is hated more than Theodore was. He never looks you in the face, but when you look away he glances at you like a tiger." And Gordon wrote much more to the same effect. In short, King John of Abyssinia—like other subjects of Radical sympathy of late years—is a perfect savage; detected by his own subjects, his imaginary wrongs are made to figure as the justification for some move in party tactics.

SHANGHAI.

We ought to have quoted the shares of the Cotton Manufacturing Co. as having fallen from 30 to 13 premium. This is in consequence of Pong's threat to restrain by injunction both the Spinning and Weaving Companies from manufacturing. We have not heard a quotation of the Spinning Co.'s shares.

A quantity of Jewish refugees from Baghdad lately arrived at the port; they are making themselves rather troublesome to our Jewish community. Two males and one female were the cause of rather a large crowd gathering on the Bund to-day. They went to a house and demanded money; this was given to them, but we suppose it was not as much as they expected, so they commenced making a great noise, the female every now and then relieving the two males with her shrill voice. Our reporter pushed his way through the crowd, and as soon as the refugees saw him they commenced as follows: "Chinaman very good, Englishman very good, Jew no good. This house have got plenty money, my no got one cent. To-morrow Jew Christmas day and no got chow chow." Our reporter then left.

The continued wet weather prevented the grass course being opened this morning, September 23rd, and the Trial Stakes consequently did not take place; the training course was sticky and slippery and not very fit for galloping on. Still, a good deal of mudlarking went on. Foxhound, who cannot go in mud, was galloped more or less by Mr. Foxhound from the turf a few days, as was announced by his organ; this pony is improving in his style and he looks as if he will be all there on the St. Leger Day. White Knight went for a couple of miles in a style that looks as if he might enable his owner to skin the lamb on his St. Leger buck. On Thursday morning Mr. Fernando's handsome black created a sensation by doing half a mile just under a minute with a light weight up and on a fast (inside) course.—*Mercury*.

We learn that an incident in connection with the loss of the steamer *Europa*, near Vega Island, has not been made public, and as it is to the interest of all concerned it is only right that the truth should be made known. It appears that when the *Europa* struck on the unknown rock, which was after she got clear of the strait, Captain Bendall backed his vessel off, but finding that she was making water rapidly, the commander, to save life, then ran his ship into shallow water. The boats were immediately lowered, and the junior officers and engineers "sold off" to take charge of them, and they succeeded in landing on the island all the Chinese passengers safely. On the island is a summer retreat belonging to the missionaries, and this being the first foreign house reached by the shipwrecked men, they naturally applied for shelter, and a place to put their things in safety. They were told, however, by a missionary that he had no accommodation for them, and referred them to the Chinese huts. He also put the question to the officers, "How could you lose your ship in the middle of the day?" The officers then proceeded to another foreign house, which was occupied by some French ladies (and missionaries), who acted like good Samaritans, and gave up all they had to the unfortunate men; they also gave up all their spare stores to be taken back to the steamer in case of need. The next morning, the missionary, thinking no doubt his treatment would be made public, found that he had quarters to spare, and proffered them to the shipwrecked men, but they were respectfully declined. The advantages afforded to missionaries by the coast steamer is too well known; and it seems a piece of ingratitude that a missionary should be the first to refuse aid to the crew of a steamer. It was only a voyage or two previous to his mishap, that Captain Bendall gave up his cabin to a missionary lady and her two children. In fact, the kindness of the captain is universally admitted; and it is a matter of great regret to know that in his anxiety to save all the lives of those on board, he has lost the whole of his effects.—*Courier*.

SHANGHAI TURF NOTES.

September 20th, 1882.

The grass course was open and galloping began at an early hour; the first row coming off at 5:15 a.m. This was Repeater and Orion; they went for 18 m. Repeater went in his best form, beating Orion hollow; the time was 4:15, which is very good for the early morning. A number of other gallops took place before sunrise. Amongst them were Wild Eddy and First Comet. Wild Eddy galloped round the wrong way to the mile post, First Comet began 14 m. off, but pulled up and joined Wild Eddy; they went a mile together in 2:14, both are in good form and apparently sound. Mr. Kerfoot's skelbald went with Wild Dash for 11 m. and beat him easily; time 2:28. Last mile race—This skelbald is the finest griffin seen for a long time; other owners are anxious as to whether he will race here or be kept over for the Hongkong Derby. Mr. Smarty's dun and Blackthorn went for a

steady 2 mile gallop, time 1:39, the dun griffin pulling hard. Mr. Bill sent out two gnyas and a dark brown, owner up, 11 m. 3:38, last mile 2:24, besides several other crowds, but it is as usual difficult to make much out of Mr. Bill's gallops. He pulled up the dark brown, so it may be supposed he is another First Trumpet. Khand went 1 m. in 2:26. Sweetbriar and Whitehorn went on an easy mile in 2:19, the white could not be seen, as he was covered up by the black. Montezuma was going well in his usual easy style, 1 m. in 2:16, last 2 m. 1:45. The favourite made the hearts of other owners sink with despair. About 15 of Mr. Ten Broeck's griffins went for 2 m. it was a close thing between Adonis and the pibald; time, we think, 1:37. Hualachan and Pibald were lame.

The Lucketting Society's sole hope re-appeared on the course this morning after an illness, which was cured by a little opium. He does not look as if he wanted much lucketting; he is named Frater Fames, apparently because he looks nearly as thin as one of the Water-cure ponies. Merodac went for 2 m. in 1:37.—*Mercury*.

September 22nd.

A dull and dreary morning with a greasy training course and general atmospheric depression of spirits caused the training to be most uninteresting. The only advantage of such a morning is that one is better able to give critical attention to the condition of the numerous ponies now in training than is possible when a lot of galloping is going on. Mr. Henry's old ponies are all of them progressing very favourably, and according to my judgment, being handled with the hand and head of a master. I do not think his griffin "rewards his careful care." Foxhound is going worked more vigorously, and seems to be improving. Tajmahal is both looking and going to perfection. It is my opinion that hitherto this pony has generally been under trained, and that with more preparatory fast work before the races he would prove even more formidable than he has done, especially as regards the earlier races of the meeting. Tajmahal has acquired the reputation of being unable, or as some say, unwilling to win his first race. I attribute this more to the system of training than to the pony himself. Our sporting friend Mr. Mat Dawson, is expected here on Monday, and I think he will be pleased with the condition of his old favourite, *Financier*, at last gives some prospects of rewarding his sporting owner. This pony is looking remarkably well, and going soundly.

September 23rd.

The gods were again unpropitious this morning, and spectators were defrauded of their just rights, though some owners had the temerity to gallop on the training course, notwithstanding its dangerous condition and repeated warnings. Let us hope there are no more additions to the invalid ranks. There is no particular change from my last. Favourites then occupy the same position now, but interest in the Griffins and St. Leger is the interest. The probable starters for the latter race (so far as one can judge before the entries) are Montezuma, Dunkeld, Black Bird, Sweet Briar, Smarty's dun, White Knight, Pibald, two each from Mr. St. Andrew's, Mr. Bill's, and the Hongkong stable, one from Mr. Ten Broeck's, Joe's pet, Repeater, Castigator, one from Mr. Rick's Foxhound, Amethyst, and two or three outsiders. I think we can safely look forward to a larger field than even in Teenkwan's year, and as for the old races, any pony not in cherry-pie order will certainly meet with defeat. The reduction of the 15 to the usual entrance fee in the Griffins will produce a larger entry. It is an expensive business entering an old pony all through, and where any doubts exist as to running, owners naturally avoid races too costly. This meeting, I expect to see a larger and better field in the Griffins than since it was won by Alone, and like the Griffins of that year, it is just as likely to be won by a rank outsider. I am prognosticating big fields without taking into consideration casualties quite unavoidable, on that master-piece of stupidity—the present training course. But if owners and trainers do not profit by the warnings given them, they have no one to blame but themselves.—*Courier*.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

September 16th, 1882.

Yesterday evening at 7:40 p.m. a heavy gale with rain and lightning passed over this, it lasted till 10:20 p.m.; it has blown down E.B.M. Consulate flagstaff, breaking a number of trees. About 600 ft from here, at Ling Ching-fu, the Shanghai telegraph line has been out of order since Thursday; the battery there has been broken and till it is repaired the line cannot be worked.

It is said that, although H.E. Li considered that his influence and power would be sufficient to subdue the Dai Lin Kün and therefore ordered him back from Tungchow, he finds out that the old gentleman is too much for him as he was for H.E. Chang; although Li had his programme ready he arrives at the conclusion that the best thing to do is to send him to Peking and let them try what they can do. The Chinese say the Dai Lin Kün is right on his side and therefore Li fears him and cannot do as he thought he could. The Korean Ambassadors, it is said, have arranged with Li in regard to the money payable to Japan which is agreed to by him; they will therefore leave per next China Merchants' S.N. Co. for Chefoo, and thence go to Corea. The Queen, it is said, goes back overland. What is all this? The Dai Lin Kün, a prisoner, subdues the mighty Li Hung-chang and Li agrees to pay Japan, instead of Corea, paying Japan 100 millions. The question is very naturally asked, Why? It is said Li cannot understand why the Russian Admiral went to Peking without calling on him; and why telegrams should have been sent to St. Petersburg and Vladivostok is a mystery to him. Foreign informers are not able to acquaint him about all this and some go so far as to say that it is this which has decided him to send the Dai Lin Kün to Peking; it may be so and it may not, future events may tell; but at any rate, late events have shown that others are ready to play the same programme, which Li thought he and China would play alone.—*Mercury*.

MAILS EXPECTED.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The American mail steamer *Oceanic*, with mails from San Francisco of the 31st ultimo, left Yokohama on the morning of the 22nd instant, and may be expected here on or about the 28th.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

The P. & O. steamer *Kashgar*, with the next English mail, left Singapore at 8 a.m. on the 25th instant, and may be expected to arrive here on the 30th.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The Union Line steamer *Oxfordshire* left Singapore for this port on the morning of the 22nd instant, and may be expected to arrive here on the 29th.

The Indo-China S.N. Co.'s steamer *Lennox* left Singapore on the 25th September, and may be expected to arrive here on or about the 2nd October.

The Shire Line steamer *Carnarvonshire*, from London, left Singapore this afternoon, and may be expected here on or about the 3rd October.

GENERAL DUCROT.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

PARIS, Thursday night, Aug. 17th. General Ducrot, who made himself somewhat conspicuous in Paris during the siege, died suddenly yesterday at Versailles. He was born at Nevers, and was sixty-five years of age. He was a great favourite in the army. Though comparatively unknown to the public before the Franco-Prussian War, Auguste Ducrot had, at the beginning of his military career, served a long time with distinction in Africa under the Duke d'Almeida. He also served in the Italian campaign in 1859. In 1869 he was in command of the 6th Division of the Territorial Army at Strasbourg. It was there that he wrote the letters to General Froissard, since made public, in which he called attention to the superiority of the Prussian military organisation and the preparations for war which were being made throughout Germany. When war broke out in 1870, General Ducrot was appointed to the command of the 1st Division of the 1st Army Corps under the orders of Marshal MacMahon. General Ducrot took part in the celebrated battle of Reims on the 4th of August. The few battalions with which he succeeded in retreating to Châlons were placed at the head of the 1st Corps of the newly organised army under the command of Marshal MacMahon. Having conceived the project of effecting a junction with the Army of Metz, under the command of Marshal Bazaine, Ducrot marched the 1st towards the Meuse, and took part in the battle of Sedan. Designated by Marshal MacMahon, who had been seriously wounded, to assume the supreme command, he was almost immediately superseded by General de Wimpffen, who signed the capitulation. When taken prisoner General Ducrot refused the advantages offered those officers who undertook not to seek to escape, and not to serve in any army fighting against the Germans. He was therefore held prisoner at Pont-a-Mousson, but succeeded in making his escape in disguise. He arrived safely in Paris, and was by General Trochu appointed to the command of the 13th and 14th Army Corps. On the 21st October he led out six thousand men to Rueil, La Jonchère, and Buzenval. The battle was bravely contested, but led to no result. At length, after numerous useless skirmishes, it was decided by the Generals assembled in a Council of War under General Trochu that a serious attempt should be made to break through the Prussian lines, and it was in consequence of that decision that General Ducrot on the 28th of November issued his celebrated proclamation to his troops, and which for a moment not only inspired his men with renewed courage, but raised the hopes of the inhabitants of the city. The excitement created by that energetic and patriotic proclamation, which concluded with the words, "As for myself, I swear before the whole nation never to return to Paris but dead or victorious," can only be realised by those who have been locked up in a besieged town for months, and have at last drunk in the welcome and inspiring words of a man who promised to deliver them from a hated foe. The fighting at Champigny lasted three days, and General Ducrot's men behaved with great bravery. At one moment the report was circulated that the brave Ducrot, after prodigies of valour, had really broken through the Prussian lines, and that he had been victorious. The intense joy caused by this rumour, too confidently believed in, was, however, followed, when evening had waned into night, by the gloomy tidings that the French had recrossed the Marne. On the 19th January, 1871, when a sortie was made in the direction of Montlout and Buzenval, General Ducrot's troops arrived on the scene of action two hours behind time. After the capitulation the General was elected member of the National Assembly on the 5th of February, 1871, but resigned his seat on the 20th of November, 1872. After having been appointed to the command of the 8th Army Corps, he retired from active service in 1878. Since then he has lived quietly at Versailles. The General in his will has expressed the desire that his funeral may take place without any military honours.—*Standard*.

"THAMES-STREET INDUSTRIES," by Percy Russell. This illustrated Pamphlet on Perfumery, &c., published at 1d. may be had gratis from any Chemist or dealer in perfumery in the World, or JOHN GOSNELL & Co., London.—[ADVT.]

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

[FROM MESSRS. FALCONER & CO.'S REGISTER.]

YESTERDAY.			
Barometer—1 P.M.	.....	79.04	
Barometer—4 P.M.	.....	79.69	
Thermometer—1 P.M.	.....	81	
Thermometer—4 P.M.	.....	81	
Thermometer—1 P.M. (Wet bulb)	.....	80	
Thermometer—4 P.M. (Wet bulb)	.....	81	
TO-DAY.			
Barometer—9 A.M.	.....	80.84	
Thermometer—9 A.M.	.....	83	
Thermometer—9 A.M. (Wet bulb)	.....	81	
Barometer—1 P.M.	.....	80.98	
Thermometer—1 P.M.	.....	83	
Thermometer—1 P.M. (Wet bulb)	.....	81	
Thermometer—4 P.M.	.....	83	
Thermometer—4 P.M. (Wet bulb)	.....	80	
Thermometer—Minimum (over night)	.....	80	

Velvet Black, 32 inches, per yard... \$0.18 to 0.19